



# News Release

## Arizona Department of Public Safety

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Roger Vanderpool, the Director of the Arizona Department of Public Safety, recently spent six very exciting and informative days in Israel participating in a professional exchange with the country's top police officials and private sector security experts. The trip, which concluded in mid-February, brought together 13 leaders of law enforcement agencies in the U.S. for meetings and demonstrations in Israel relating to the country's unique homeland security experiences and what could be learned from them.

While in Israel, Director Vanderpool and his group met with the country's senior command police officials and private security experts to discuss homeland security topics such as investigative techniques, incident command, police communications, control methods and incident response techniques to events such as suicide bomb attacks. Israeli officials, discussed their experiences dealing with information sharing, private sector security involvement in public safety, and the securing of public facilities such as retail malls.

The week-long exchange was sponsored by the American Israel Education Foundation, a supporting organization of the American Israel Public Affairs Committee, and the National Sheriffs' Association. While on his trip, Director Vanderpool also participated in an intensive series of meetings, policy discussions, lectures, demonstrations and hands-on training, with representatives from the Israeli National Police, the Israeli Border Patrol, the National Prison Service,

Director Vanderpool stated some of the highlights of his trip included a demonstration by a Jerusalem Bomb Squad, a ride along with Tel Aviv police officers and a demonstration of the cutting edge surveillance system used to monitor Jerusalem's historic Old City. Additional highlights included a tour of Hadassah Hospital's trauma unit, considered to have one of the best mass casualty response units in the world. In addition, a behind the scenes tour of security operations at Tel Aviv's Ben Gurion International Airport and a tour of an Israeli Border police station and officer training facility.

"Israel has been preparing for and responding to terror attacks for 50 years. One purpose of this trip was to ensure that law enforcement officials from the U.S. have the opportunity to learn from Israel's vast experience in this critical area," Vanderpool said. "I was honored when I was invited to be part of this once in a lifetime journey and I learned a great deal, not only about law enforcement issues but also about the area's incredible history and profound religious significance to those of faith like myself."

Law enforcement in Israel is said to reveal the benefits of fluid information sharing, to include integration with the private security industry for prevention of terrorist events, to efficient investigation techniques and scene safety for first responders. Since 2001, these police techniques have been credited with reducing attacks in the State of Israel by about 300 percent.